

Dear Members of the Human Services Committee of Connecticut General Assembly:

My name is Gabriela Gualavisi , I am a Resident from West Haven

I stand in support of S.B. 284: AN ACT INCREASING THE AGE FROM EIGHT TO EIGHTEEN YEARS FOR AN INCOME-ELIGIBLE PERSON TO OBTAIN MEDICAL ASSISTANCE REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS. Expanding access to HUSKY up to age 18 regardless of immigration status is an important step in ensuring our immigrant community has access to the healthcare we need.

I am a patient at HAVEN Clinic. In the case of my daughter, she has vision problems, and we have had a lot of difficulty getting her care. She doesn't have insurance, and we have been back and forth between clinics. One clinic tells us one thing and another tells us another. I have seen my daughter's health getting worse. She has been transferred care several times.

When I have shown up to my daughter's appointments, she has been turned away from care because she does not have insurance. Other times, I have been told that if I don't pay for the visit prior to the doctor seeing her that they will not be able to provide care.

I believe that access to health insurance would help my daughter very much. I think it's especially important for children to have access to healthcare because they are the ones who suffer most from this.

I support S.B. 284 and I ask the committee to support and pass this legislation. Looking forward, I ask the committee to work towards opening access to all immigrants regardless of age.

Thank you for your time,

Gabriela Gualavisi